



Inside ICE

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ICE MAKES FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS ARREST UNDER NEW INTELLIGENCE ACT AUTHORITY

An Ethiopian man suspected of committing numerous acts of torture and killings in his native country has become the first human rights violator arrested by ICE under the new authorities of the recently-enacted Intelligence Reform Act of 2004.

On January 4, ICE agents in Atlanta arrested Kelbessa Negewo, a 54-year-old Ethiopian national. As part of the investigation, Negewo's U.S. citizenship has been revoked.

News of Negewo's arrest swept through the Ethiopian community in the United States.

"The topic is 'talk of the town' among Ethiopians all over the world," one Ethiopian immigrant to the United States wrote. "But the most important thing is the current dictators, human rights violators and their likes in most developing countries may not have a place to flee to when their regimes collapse."

Negewo was arrested for violating the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by the Intelligence Reform Act. The Intelligence Reform Act

amendment adds the commission of acts of torture and/or extrajudicial killings as grounds for inadmissibility and deportability. Under this amendment, ICE has expanded authorities to pursue investigations and removals against human rights violators in the United States.

"Today's arrest marks a new chapter in ICE's longstanding efforts to arrest, prosecute and remove human rights violators from the United States. With the expanded

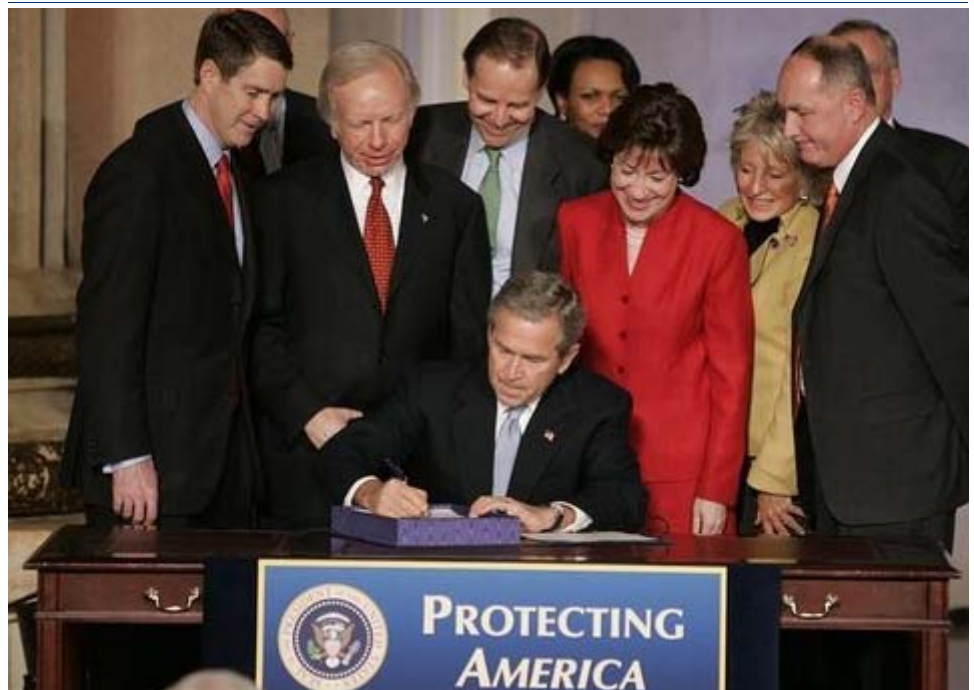
authorities under the Intelligence Reform Act, ICE has a powerful new tool to deny these egregious criminals a safe haven in this country. Human rights violators are not welcome here," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia.

During the 1970s, a military dictatorship known as the "Dergue" ruled Ethiopia. In the mid-1970s, Negewo served as the chairman of Higher Zone 9, one of several

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President George W. Bush puts his signature on S. 2845, The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, in Washington, D.C., Dec. 17, 2004.

DRO, MARSHALS TEAM FOR SOUTHERN STAR

A unique partnership in Southern Florida between the nation's oldest and youngest federal law enforcement agencies has proved to be a winner for everyone except the bad guys.

It started in March of 2004, when two former co-workers sat across a conference table in Miami. Chuck Ziethan was there representing ICE, then only one year old, and it's newly-formalized Fugitive Operations Program (FOP) within ICE's Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). Ed Stubbs, Ziethan's former boss, was there as the Deputy Assistant U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Florida, representing the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency, one with a reputation for tracking down fugitives.

"The Marshals Service and ICE DRO sat down and discussed what cases they had, what cases we had and we found that we had a lot of cases of mutual concern, mutual interest," Ziethan said. And thus was born Operation Southern Star.

Southern Star is a joint fugitive operations venture that combines the information, intelligence, expertise and manpower of ICE and USMS to identify, locate and arrest foreign-born persons in Southern Florida who have an outstanding arrest warrant and are fugitives from the law.

After several months of planning,

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ICE Supervisory Deportation Officer Matthew Baker, right, stands ready as Deputy U.S. Marshal William Repoli, right center, and Department of State Diplomatic Security Special Agent Robert Holland, left, cuff one of the fugitives who was identified, located and arrested as a result of Operation Southern Star in South Florida.

Southern Star began operations as a pilot program on June 1, 2004, and was slated to run for four months. Federal officers began sweeping across Southern Florida, but so were the hurricanes. Four struck the area in a two-month period. Despite the weather, the results of Southern Star were exceptional, with more than 160 fugitives arrested.

As the operation progressed, ICE and the USMS began seeing interest from other agencies, and before long local and county police and other federal agencies had gotten involved in the initiative.

"We are expanding Operation Southern Star," Ziethan said. "Originally it was just ICE and the U.S. Marshals. We're now inviting a lot more counties and local police

to get more involved and to bring their foreign-born fugitives into the mix. Now we're bringing in their local warrants. But it's not a matter of an ICE warrant or a Marshal's warrant or a local warrant. The whole concept behind this is protecting the homeland. It's a matter of getting the bad guys off the streets."

Just as Operation Southern Star has grown, ICE DRO's Fugitive Operations continues to grow as well. Initially established with just eight teams, Fugitive Ops now has 18 teams in 16 locations throughout the United States and hopes to deploy an additional 30 teams in 2005. Team members, drawn from DRO ranks, received three weeks of specialized training in fugitive operations. The program has made some 20,000 arrests since March 1, 2004.

ICE AGENT EARNS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARD

ICE Special Agent Yong Chin was honored with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Intellectual Property Excellence Award for his role in dismantling several organizations involved in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) crimes.

Chin received the award January 12 in New York, N.Y., because of his leadership and his successful enforcement record involving the counterfeit and smuggling of pharmaceutical products. In 2002 and 2003, Chin spearheaded several investigations in the Los Angeles area that identified the illegal production and sale of more than 26,000 counterfeit Viagra tablets.

Chin is the seventh ICE agent to be recognized at the national level in the past three months for his anti-counterfeiting efforts. In November 2004, the Department of Justice gave awards to six ICE agents for targeting a global network of cyberspace gangs that pirated billions of dollars worth of software over the Internet.

Chin is currently based in Washington, D.C. at the National Intellectual Property Rights Center, where he plays a critical role in helping to oversee ICE investigations around the country that target IPR violators.

In recent years IPR violations have grown in magnitude and complexity, undermining and creating staggering revenue and job losses to the U.S. economy.

"In many cases, the illicit profits gained by criminal organizations from counterfeit goods are used to promote

additional criminal enterprises, such as the trafficking of drugs, weapons, or other contraband," Chin said. "Our goal is to dismantle these criminal organizations and stop the stream of counterfeit goods from entering the United States."

ICE MAKES FIRST ARREST UNDER NEW INTELLIGENCE LEGISLATION

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specialized government units in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, that employed a campaign of torture, arbitrary imprisonment and summary executions against perceived internal enemies of the Ethiopian government.

Negewo was responsible for having numerous innocent civilians, mostly students, incarcerated, tortured and subsequently executed by firing squad. In some instances, Negewo and his guards forced women to undress, then bound their arms and legs together before hanging them from poles for severe beatings, according to U.S. court records. Negewo's actions were so severe that the Ethiopian dictatorship eventually jailed him.

Upon his release from Ethiopian prison, Negewo fled to the United States. He ultimately obtained immigration benefits and citizenship in this country.

ICE agents subsequently initiated an investigation into Negewo, who was in the Atlanta area. Several of Negewo's torture victims who had relocated from Ethiopia to Atlanta had encountered Negewo in the city by chance. The ICE investigation ultimately revealed that Negewo had made false statements about his past human rights violations to obtain U.S. citizenship. As a result of the investigation, Negewo's U.S. citizenship was revoked by the federal court. Following his arrest by ICE on January 6, Negewo was placed into removal proceedings and remains in ICE custody.

The Negewo case is just one of more than 200 pending ICE investigations of human rights violators in the United States. ICE created the Human Rights Violators & Public Safety Unit and its legal counterpart, the Human Rights Law Division, in the summer of 2003. The Human Rights Violators & Public Safety Unit investigates individuals alleged to have committed crimes such as torture, suppression of religious freedoms, persecution, and genocide. The Human Rights Law Division is responsible for providing legal advice to agents and litigation assistance to ICE field attorneys in potential persecutor and human rights abuser cases.



ICE Special Agent Yong Chin is currently assigned to the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Coordination Center in Washington, D.C. He received the Intellectual Property Excellence Award for his work as an ICE agent in California in dismantling several IPR criminal organizations involved in smuggling and selling counterfeit pharmaceuticals. In 1998, the International Chamber of Commerce estimated counterfeit goods represented a market worth \$350 billion.

ICE EXTRADITES TOP TARGETS IN CHILD PORN CASE

NEWARK, N.J.—The president and marketing director of a Belarus-based Internet billing company linked to more than 1,000 child pornography arrests worldwide have been extradited from France to face money laundering and child pornography charges in the United States.

Yahor Zalatarou, 26, and Alexei Buchnev, 27, both of Minsk, Belarus, are the president and marketing director, respectively, of Regpay Co. Ltd., an Internet billing company. Zalatarou and Buchnev were arraigned in federal court in Newark January 6 after their arrival from France.

They were arrested in Paris on July 30, 2003, after they were persuaded to travel to France in a ruse ar-

ranged by ICE agents investigating them and Regpay's international child pornography operation. The defendants had been in custody in Paris since their arrest and were fighting extradition until a French court ruled in favor of sending them to the United States.

The arrest of the pair was part of the first phase of an ICE case known as the "Falcon" investigation.

The Falcon investigation focused on Regpay, which provided billing services for 50 child pornography websites and operated its own child pornography websites. "Falcon" also focused on Connections USA, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., another credit card processing company. Connections USA and two of its officers have already pleaded guilty.

The second phase of the investigation is ongoing and focuses on thousands of people around the world who purchased child pornography subscriptions from the Regpay sites. ICE agents have arrested 160 individuals in the United States. ICE has also provided leads to foreign law enforcement that have resulted in 860 arrests in Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, China, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Some of the subscribers arrested to date include a California seventh grade teacher, the chief of pediatric medicine at a New York hospital, a minister at an all-girls school in New Jersey, a Buffalo police officer and a Chicago school principal.

ICE HAS RECORD YEAR FIGHTING DRUG TRAFFICKING

ICE agents at home and abroad posted a record year during 2004 in their efforts to combat the illegal drug trade.

During 2004, ICE investigations yielded unprecedented results in targeting and dismantling some of the world's largest drug trafficking organizations. ICE agents were also involved in the seizure of record amounts of illegal drugs and, working with authorities overseas, saw a record number of ICE drug/money laundering defendants extradited to the United States to stand trial.

"In 2004, ICE achieved unprecedented success in targeting and bringing to justice some of the most powerful drug figures in the world, thanks to extensive collaboration with law enforcement partners at home and abroad," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia. "Criminal organizations that exploit vulnerabilities in our nation's borders to poison America with drugs

pose a serious homeland security threat. Targeting and dismantling these global drug syndicates is a key priority for ICE."

Some of the anti-drug milestones achieved by ICE in 2004 include:

Unprecedented Success Against the Cali Cartel—A lengthy ICE investigation in Miami led to the indictment of the leaders of the Cali Cartel and their associates, resulting in numerous arrests and, in December 2004, the extradition of the highest-ranking drug kingpin to ever face trial in the United States.

Unprecedented Success Against the Norte Valle Cartel—A lengthy ICE drug money laundering investigation in New York led to the indictment and capture in 2004 of several leaders of Colombia's Norte Valle Cartel, which is estimated to export between 30 and 50 percent of the cocaine entering the United States.

One top leader of the cartel, Arcangel de Jesus Henao-Montoya, was arrested in Panama in January 2004 and expelled to ICE custody in New York.

At Least 37 Colombian Extraditions—Thanks to the efforts of the Colombian government and the ICE Attaché Office in Bogotá, Colombia, at least 37 ICE drug and money laundering defendants were extradited from Colombia to the United States in 2004, more than in any year in history.

More Than 3.1 Million Lbs. Of Drug Seized—During Fiscal Year 2004, ICE was involved with other federal agencies in the seizure of more than 3.1 million pounds of illegal drugs, including roughly 340,000 pounds of cocaine and 2.6 million pounds of marijuana. These figures represent a 63 percent increase over the drug seizure statistics in Fiscal Year 2003.

ICE DEPORTS D.C. GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A 17-year-old Honduran citizen and gang member convicted as an adult for participating in the sexual assault of two teenage girls in Maryland was deported January 5 by ICE.

Reinaldo Ramos-Ramos, an illegal alien who entered the United States in June 2002, was one of 10 gang members who sexually assaulted the minor girls, ages 16 and 17, inside a vacant Adelphi, Md., apartment March 14, 2003.

The assaults might have been a savage gang initiation rite that calls for female gang prospects to either endure being "jumped in" through a beating by gang members, or be "sexed in" by multiple male gang members.

Ramos-Ramos was convicted as an adult July 26 of 2nd Degree Sexual Offense. He was sentenced to 18 months time-served in an adult correctional facility. Upon his release from prison, Ramos-Ramos was turned over to ICE and processed for deportation to Honduras.

MAN CONVICTED OF MURDERS SURRENDERS TO ICE OFFICERS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—An illegal alien who gunned down a juvenile rival gang member was sentenced to life in prison January 7 after ICE detention and removal officers located him in Mexico and convinced him to turn himself in at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Arturo Martinez-Montano, 22, of Mexico, was convicted on Dec. 14 in Hennepin County District Court of four counts of first-degree homicide. He was sentenced to life in prison, plus an additional two years because the crime was gang-related.

If Martinez-Montano is ever released from state custody, he will be turned over to ICE for removal from the United States.

"As a result of outstanding cooperation among law enforcement agencies and the courts, a killer has been brought to justice and taken off the street," said ICE Detention and Removal Operations Field Office Director Scott Baniecke. Baniecke oversees the arrest and removal of illegal aliens for a five-state area that includes Minneapolis.

Just after midnight Dec. 4, 2000, Martinez-Montano and other gang associates obtained a gun, climbed in a car and went looking for members of a rival gang to avenge the shootings of two of their own gang members just an hour before.

When the group encountered two men on foot who they knew to be rival gang members, Martinez-Montano emerged from the car and fired six or seven shots, killing the juvenile. After the shooting Martinez-Montano fled to Mexico. An ICE detention and removal officer located Martinez-Montano in Mexico and during several telephone conversations persuaded him to surrender at the Otay Mesa, Calif., port of entry.

ICE's LESC TURNS TRAFFIC INFO INTO MAJOR OHIO GANG ARREST

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Thanks to information provided by ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), Columbus police have determined that a man arrested Dec. 23 after a minor traffic accident is actually a violent, previously deported felon gang leader who had been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and for participating in a drive-by shooting in Nevada.

Nelson Flores, a 34-year-old citizen of El Salvador who goes by the nickname "El Mula" ("The Mule"), was identified when the Columbus officer requested assistance. The LESC is an ICE national enforcement operations center that provides local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with real-time immigration and identity information on aliens suspected, arrested or convicted, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

IMAM INVESTIGATED BY ICE FOR SUPPORTING TERROR LEAVES U.S.

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—An Egyptian national who served as an imam at the Islamic Institute of Orange County and who had been arrested by ICE agents departed the United States January 4.

Wagdy Mohamed Ghoneim, 53, agreed to leave the country voluntarily rather than face the possibility of a formal removal order from an immigration judge.

ICE agents arrested Ghoneim at his Anaheim residence in November 2004 and charged him with violating his immigration status. During the ensuing proceedings, Ghoneim admitted to the charges.

Following his arrest, ICE held Ghoneim without bond because of concerns his past speeches and participation in fund raising activities could be supportive of terrorist organizations, including Hamas.

Under the agreement reached with ICE and the immigration courts, Ghoneim departed the United States and traveled to Qatar.

Inside ICE

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, immigration, customs, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

AGENT PATRIOT



ICE Special Agent and Air Force Reserve MSgt. Shane Dunn, center, receives the Bronze Star from Maj. Gen. Giles E. Vanderhoof, Adjutant General of Nevada, left, and Col. Jonathan Proehl, Commander, 152nd Airlift Wing, Nevada Air National Guard. Dunn, who currently conducts financial investigations in Reno, was recognized for his actions in Afghanistan. While serving with members of a U.S. Army Special Forces "A" Team, Dunn's convoy came under attack. Special Agent Dunn jumped out of his vehicle and returned fire. While Special Forces personnel engaged the enemy, Dunn called in air strikes on the enemy positions. In addition to those actions, Dunn was recognized for helping chase down and capture an enemy soldier. During the pursuit, Shane sprinted nearly a mile, despite being weighed down by 100 pounds of equipment.